(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Price of medicine for Swine Flu

†169. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of medicine used for the treatment of Swine Flu (fever) varies from Rs.450 to Rs.800 per 10 tablets in pharmaceutical market in the country;

(b) if not, the facts thereof and whether Government has made proper assessment of the said price; and

(c) if so, the assessment with regard to fair price of this medicine and the steps taken by Government to provide above-said medicine at fair price in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) Government/National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixes/revises the prices of 74 bulk drugs, specified in the First Schedule of Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO) and the formulations containing any of these Scheduled drugs. The prices of Scheduled formulations are fixed or revised in accordance with the-paragraph 7 of the DPCO, 1995. No one can sell any Scheduled drug/formulation at a price higher than the price fixed by NPPA.

Prices of Non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

The NPPA monitors the prices of all formulations based on the reports of ORG IMS and the information furnished by the individual manufacturers.

Wherever a price increase beyond 10% per annum (20% before 1.4.2007) is noticed, the manufacturer is asked to bring down the price voluntarily failing which, subject to prescribed conditions action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995 for fixing the price of formulation in public interest. This is an ongoing process.

The most commonly medicine used in treatment of Influenza A H1N1 (Swine Flu) is Oseltamivir. The medicine is being marketed at around Rs.450/- to 480/-per strip of 10 tablets. The Department of Pharmaceuticals is regularly holding meetings with the concerned companies marketing/manufacturing oseltamivir formulations to monitor the availability and pricing scenario of the medicine in the country.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi